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Gen*

DCI/IC 75-0912
12 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : GAO Request to OMB for Intelligence
Budget Data

1. As we expected, Donahue called in reaction to my earlier call to McOmber (head of the Budget Review Division of OMB which handles OMB's Congressional relations). I gave Donahue the background on my call to McOmber. Donahue then explained the situation within OMB.

2. The GAO request to the OMB on the behalf of a member of the Senate Budget Committee for data on intelligence budgets arrived in OMB around the end of February. It has been given a lower priority than the request being received within OMB under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result, they have not addressed the request in detail nor fully thought through how they will respond.

3. The GAO request is for the following:

- Budget authorizations for FY 74 and FY 75, and outlays for FY 74 for the CIA, DIA, Army, Navy, Air Force (including NRO), NSA, State, FBI Internal Security Division, Treasury "Intelligence Division", and the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Intelligence.
- Where in the Federal budget are these amounts found by line item and account, plus indications within the budget of the purpose for which these funds are to be expended along with the appropriate legislative authority.
- The letter of request also states that if this data is not to be made available, the OMB response should include legislative authority for not providing it.

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4. Donahue indicated that although there is no firm policy within OMB as yet on their response, he is inclining toward recommending that, for the request concerning the CIA, DIA, Army, Navy, Air Force and NSA, the OMB response take the standard approach of indicating that this kind of data is routinely provided to the appropriate Congressional Oversight Committees by the DCI and suggest that this request be referred to the leadership of those committees. He further indicated that in so doing he will probably draw on the language in the DCI's letter of 28 February to Melvin Price on HR 205. He said that they may provide the requested data on State, the FBI and AEC because they are unclassified, but he again stressed that the OMB has not yet settled on a firm policy.

5. I told Donahue that I was sure you would want to use this information at your Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee meeting this Friday. I also urged that provision of any data be coordinated with you. Donahue said they would indeed coordinate if they supplied any data on this request. I then suggested that in anticipation of further requests of this nature in the coming weeks and months, it would be highly useful to establish such coordination as a general principle on all such data requests. Donahue agreed but, given the obvious disarray on this subject within the OMB, the establishment of such a general principle will probably require conversations at high levels.

LS
[Redacted Signature Box]

Chief, MPRRD/IC

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